

# National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC)

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## DANTES Test Centers' Authorization

The National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC) authorizes military installations with DANTES test centers to administer certification examinations for respiratory therapists.

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## Background

The NBRC is a voluntary health certifying board that was created in 1960 to evaluate the professional competence of respiratory therapists. It's primary purposes are to:

- Prepare and conduct examinations for certification and registration
  - Establish admissions policies for credential examinations
  - Establish standards for competency assessment
  - Issue certificates to qualified individuals
  - Cooperate with appropriate education programs
  - Pass on qualifications of candidates for certification and registration
  - Prepare and maintain a Directory of those credentialed.
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## NBRC Sponsors and Board

The NBRC is sponsored by the following medical organizations:

Number	Association
1	American Association of Respiratory Care (AARC)
2	American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA)
3	American College of Chest Physicians (ACCP)
4	American Thoracic Society (ATS)
5	National Society for Pulmonary Technology (NSPT)

The Board of Trustees of NBRC is composed of representatives from each sponsoring organization.

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## Examination Overview

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The NBRC currently offers five credentialing programs. These examinations are:

Examination
<b>CRTT</b> – for entry-level Respiratory Therapy Practitioners
<b>RRT</b> – for advanced Respiratory Therapy Practitioners
<b>CPFT</b> – for entry-level Pulmonary Function Technologists
<b>RPFT</b> – for advanced Pulmonary Function Technologists
<b>Perinatal/Pediatric Respiratory Care Specialist</b> – for Perinatal/Pediatric Respiratory Care Practitioners

## Description

### Description

The following chart provides descriptions of each of the NBRC credentialing areas.

Exam	Content
CRTT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tests entry-level respiratory therapy personnel.</li><li>• Has 140 multiple-choice questions covering:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Clinical Data (35 questions)</li><li>• Equipment (35 questions)</li><li>• Therapeutic Procedures (70)</li></ul></li><li>• Requires a scaled score of 75.</li></ul>
RRT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tests advanced respiratory therapy practitioners.</li><li>• Consists of two examinations:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Written Registry, and</li><li>• The Clinical Simulation</li></ul></li></ul> <p>The Written Registry Examination</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Has 100 multiple-choice questions covering:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Clinical Data (20 questions)</li><li>• Equipment (20 questions)</li><li>• Therapeutic Procedures (60 questions)</li></ul></li><li>• Requires a scaled score of 70.</li></ul>

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## Description, Continued

### Description (continued)

Exam	Content
RTT (Continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Clinical Simulation Examination consists of 10 patient management problems testing a candidate's ability to gather information and make decisions about real clinical situations.</li> <li>• Requires candidates to apply principles to the solution of clinical situations.</li> <li>• Samples a broad area of competencies, not the recall of isolated facts.</li> <li>• Covers problems in the categories of adult COPD, trauma, cardiovascular disease; neurological or neuromuscular disorder patients; pediatric patients; neonatal patients; and patients with other medical and surgical conditions.</li> </ul>
CPFT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tests entry-level pulmonary function technologists.</li> <li>• Has 100 multiple-choice questions covering:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instrumentation/Equipment (20 questions)</li> <li>• Diagnostic Procedures (40)</li> <li>• Data Management (40)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Categorized at a cognitive level of Recall, Application, or Analysis</li> </ul>
RPFT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tests advanced pulmonary function technologists.</li> <li>• 100 multiple-choice questions covering:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instrumentation/Equipment (20 questions)</li> <li>• Diagnostic Procedures (40 questions)</li> <li>• Data Management (40 questions)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Perinatal/ Pediatric Respiratory Care Specialty Exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Measures respiratory therapy practitioners in this specialty area.</li> <li>• Has 100 multiple-choice questions in               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clinical Data (30 questions)</li> <li>• Equipment (20 questions)</li> <li>• Therapeutic Procedures (50)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Categorized at a cognitive level of Recall, Application, or Analysis</li> </ul>

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# Admission Policies

## Admission Policies

All examinees must be 18 years of age or older. The following chart identifies other admission policies for the specific examinations:

Exam	Admission Policy
CRTT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Must be a graduate of and obtain a certificate of completion from a respiratory therapy education program accredited through the Committee on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC), previously known as the Joint Review Committee for Respiratory Therapy Education (JRCRTE).</li><li>• Must complete the program by the last day of the month prior to the month of the examination for which applicants are applying.</li><li>• May apply prior to graduation provided their program director completes the “expected graduation statement” in Section 5 of the application.</li><li>• Canadians Registered Respiratory Therapists presenting a completed application form, new application fee, and an official or notarized copy of the Canadian Registry certificate may be admitted.</li></ul>
RRT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Must be a CRTT who has a certificate of completion from a respiratory therapy education program accredited through the Committee on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC), previously known as the Joint Review Committee for Respiratory Therapy Education (JRCRTE).</li><li>• Must be a CRTT with at least 62 semester hours of college credit from a college or university accredited by the regional association. Degree must include courses in anatomy and physiology, chemistry, microbiology, physics and mathematics and have 4 years of full-time clinical experience in respiratory therapy under licensed medical supervision following certification.</li></ul>

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## Admission Policies, Continued

### Admission Policies (Continued)

Exam	Admission Policy
RRT (Continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Is a CRTT with a baccalaureate degree in an area other than respiratory therapy, including college-level courses in Anatomy/Physiology, Chemistry, Microbiology, Physics, and Mathematics and has two years of full-time clinical experience in respiratory therapy under licensed medical supervision to be interpreted as a minimum of 21 hours per week.</li></ul>
CPFT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Must be a graduate of and obtain a certificate of completion from a respiratory therapy education program accredited through the Committee on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC), previously known as the Joint Review Committee for Respiratory Therapy Education (JRCRTE)</li><li><b>or</b></li><li>• Must be a graduate of and obtain a certificate of completion or graduation from an approved pulmonary function technology educational program approved by the NSPT.</li><li>• Must complete the program by the last day of the month prior to the month of the examination for which applicants are applying.</li><li>• May apply prior to graduation provided their program director completes the “expected graduation statement” in Section 5 of the application.</li><li>• Be a CRTT credentialed by NBRC prior to the established application deadline.</li><li>• Be an RRT credentialed by NBRC prior to the established application deadline.</li></ul>

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## Admission Policies, Continued

### Admission Policies (Continued)

Exam	Admission Policy
CPFT (Continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Be a high school graduate (or equivalent) and complete 2 years clinical experience in the field of pulmonary technology, to be interpreted as a minimum of 8 hours per week under the direction of a medical director of a pulmonary function laboratory or a special care area.</li></ul>
RPFT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Shall be a CPFT credentialed by the NBRC prior to the established application deadline.</li></ul>
Perinatal/ Pediatric Respiratory Care Specialty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Be a RRT credentialed by the NBRC prior to the established application deadline.</li><li>• Be a CRTT with one year of clinical experience in perinatal/pediatric respiratory care following certification. Clinical experience is defined as a minimum of 10 hours per week for a year in perinatal/pediatric respiratory care under the supervision of a medical director of respiratory care or special care area acceptable to the Board. Clinical experience must be completed by the last day of the month in which the test is administered.</li></ul>

1. Individuals certified as CRTTs prior to 1 January 1983 are required to complete 3 years of clinical experience because they were required to complete at least 1 year of clinical experience before taking the CRTT examination.
2. Individuals who successfully completed the CCPT Examination with a specialty in Pulmonary Technology that was previously offered by the National Society for Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Technology (NSCPT) or the National Board for Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Credentialing (NBCPC) were recognized as CPFTs by NBRC in July 1984 and are eligible for the RPFT examination.
3. Applicants must submit notarized copies of their certificates of completion and graduation by the last day of the month in which they are tested. If the certificate of completion is not received by that time, the candidate's examination results will not be reported, but NBRC will hold them for an additional 30 days.

## Program Materials and Assistance

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### Program Materials and Assistance

Study guides are available from NBRC for each of the credentialing examinations. Other program materials are also available. Contact NBRC at the above address or phone number.

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## Ordering

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### Applications

The applicant or the Test Control Officer (TCO) may obtain applications for all NBRC examinations by writing to:

**Executive Office  
National Board for Respiratory Care  
8310 Nieman Road  
Lenexa, KS 66214**

**Phone: (913) 599-4200**

**Fax: (913) 541-0156**

**E-mail: [nbrc-info@nbrc.org](mailto:nbrc-info@nbrc.org).**

Applications for the examinations must be received by NBRC postmarked according to the published schedule in the current DANTES National Calendar of Certification Tests, DANTES Stock Number 1101.

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## Ordering, Continued

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### TCO Responsibilities

The Test Control Officer (TCO) will:

- Review all applications for accuracy, necessary signatures, required documentation and compliance with the current admissions policies for specified NBRC examinations prior to submission.
  - Forward completed applications along with the appropriate examination fee to NBRC (see address on page III-27-7) on official stationery.
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## Administration

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### Military Administration

**ADMINISTER THE NBRC CERTIFICATION EXAMINATIONS TO ELIGIBLE ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY AND RESERVE COMPONENT PERSONNEL ON AN UNFUNDED (EXAMINEE PAYS) BASIS UNLESS EXISTING MILITARY REGULATIONS PROVIDE OTHERWISE:**

- ARMY REGULATION 40-219
  - NAVMEDCOMINST 1500.6, AND
  - AFR 169-4
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### Civilian Administration

DANTES test centers may administer the NBRC Certification Examinations to the following civilians on **AN UNFUNDED (EXAMINEE PAYS) AND SPACE-AVAILABLE BASIS** according to local command policy and Service regulations:

- Retired military personnel
  - Military family members
  - Veterans, and
  - U.S. federal employees.
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## Fees

### Fees

The NBRC Certification Examination fees are:

<b>Type of NBRC Examination</b>		<b>Fee</b>
Certified Respiratory Therapy Technician (CRTT)	Entry Level – New Applicant	\$120
	Entry Level – Reapplicant	\$80
Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT)	Combined Written/Clinical Simulation – New Applicant	\$250
	Combined Written/Clinical Simulation – Reapplicant	\$210
	Written Registry Only – New Applicant	\$120
	Written Registry Only – Reapplicant	\$80
	Clinical Simulation Only - New Applicant/Reapplicant	\$130
Certified Pulmonary Function Technologist (CPFT)	New Applicant	\$130
	Reapplicant	\$100
Registered Pulmonary Function Technologist (RPFT)	Advanced – New Applicant	\$180
	Advanced – Reapplicant	\$150
Perinatal/Pediatric Respiratory Care Specialist	New Applicant	\$180
	Advanced-Reapplicant	\$150

## Examination Dates

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### DANTES Administration Dates

DANTES test center TCOs must administer NBRC certification examinations according to the following chart:

<b>Conus NBRC Certification Examination Administration</b>	<b>Overseas NBRC Certification Examination Administration</b>
<b>Administer examination ONLY ON SATURDAY (<u>SAME AS NATIONAL TEST DATE</u>).</b>	<b>Administer examination on <u>Monday</u> following the national test date.</b>

The national test date for all NBRC examinations always falls on a Saturday.

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## Examination Scoring

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### Scoring

Completed examinations should be forwarded in the manner prescribed in Part I of this *Handbook* to:

**Applied Measurement Professionals (AMP)  
8310 Nieman Road  
Lenexa, KS 66214**

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### Candidate Notification

Candidates will be notified of their test results within 6 weeks of receipt of the answer sheets.

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## Refunds

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### Refunds

Candidates who submit a written request to be permanently withdrawn from an examination no later than 30 days prior to the scheduled date of the examination may receive reimbursement of fees, less a processing fee.

**Any scheduled candidate who fails to appear for an examination for any reason without 30 days written notice forfeits all fees and must reapply and submit an additional application fee.**

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## Retesting

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### Retesting

Candidates who fail an examination or who do not appear for a scheduled examination may be admitted to any future examination provided they submit a completed REAPPLICATION FORM and the appropriate fee by the application deadline and provided they comply with current admission policies.

**Candidates who do not pass an examination will receive a reapplication form for the next examination with their test results. If test results are not released until near or after the application deadline for the next examination, NBRC will make special provisions for candidates who are reapplying for the next examination after the deadline. This provision will apply only to candidates for the most recent examination.**

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## Security

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### Test Loss or Compromise

Refer to Part I of the *DANTES Examination Program Handbook (DEPH)* for complete instructions if there is an NBRC test loss or compromise.

Contact DANTES immediately and refer to specific Service regulations for complete procedures. DANTES address is:

**DANTES  
Code 20F  
6490 Saufley Field Road  
Pensacola, FL 32509-5243**

**Phone: (850) 452-1360  
DSN: 922-1360  
Fax: (850) 452-1161**

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## Web Pages and E-Mail Address

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### DANTES Web Address

Access the DANTES web pages at <http://www.dantes.doded.mil>.

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### NBRC Web Address

Access the NBRC web page at [www.nbrc.org](http://www.nbrc.org).

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### DANTES E-Mail Address

The DANTES Certification Program E-mail address is [certprog@voled.doded.mil](mailto:certprog@voled.doded.mil).

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